

Israel's leading electronic daily
<http://www.jpost.co.il>
THE JERUSALEM POST INTERNET EDITION
 is waiting for you!

THE JERUSALEM POST

Make international connections
 From Israel, just dial:
177-100-2727
 AT&T

VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19445
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1997

WORLD OF SPORT
Canadian Sports in peril
 It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Unity gov't talk hits fever pitch

SARAH HONG

TALK of renewed moves toward a national unity government reached a fever pitch yesterday, but the protagonists themselves insisted that it was all much ado about nothing - so far.

The rumor mill started grinding furiously after a meeting late Sunday between Labor leader Shimon Peres and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. More grist for the mill was provided yesterday afternoon when Foreign Minister David Levy and Labor MK Haim Ramon met at the Foreign Ministry.

All four denied they were planning any specific moves.

Sharon visited Peres at home and sources close to Sharon were quick to claim last night that there was nothing special in the meeting and that it was one in a long series of friendly late-afternoons which had begun after Peres became prime minister last year and which continued after Peres's electoral defeat. The sources said that Sharon enjoys the food and excellent cognac offered by Peres.

The Ramon and Levy conversation was ascribed two scenarios.

One school of thought has it that both interlocutors find a national unity government to their advantage. Levy could cast himself in the role of the great national mediator on the condition that he not lose his portfolio if a broad coalition is set up, while Ramon would like to see Peres maintain his leadership in Labor by ushering Peres into the unity coalition in which Peres would be Labor's No. 1. This would belittle Ramon's chief rival in the battle of succession, Ehud Barak.

A second scenario speaks of Levy and Ramon hatching a grand scheme for a new centrist party to be composed of Levy's Geshet faction, Ramon's Ram faction from the Histadrut, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, Shas and even comedian Dudu Topaz.

Ramon spent the day denying any of the claims and argued that a national unity government is a non-starter because of the guidelines of the present government.

Levy said that a "centrist party is not on the cards now since all parties, Right and Left, claim that they are the true political center. As for national unity it should be remembered that when there is a lot of noise in public, there is nothing happening in fact."

MK Aryeh Den (Shas) discounted the notion that his party would give up its independence to join in a new centrist party venture, "unless everyone else mentioned by the press wants to become religious and accept the authority of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and join Shas. We will welcome them."

He told Channel 1 that his party had always favored "the national unity option, even before this coalition was formed, but it was always axiomatic with us that we will not force Netanyahu into a coalition with anyone he does not want to include in it."

Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who has had talks with Likud MK Michael Eitan lately on the end goals in the negotiations with the PA, contributed to the speculation last night by asserting that "there is much more in common than is supposed. There is a surprising amount of common ground."

Beilin may run, Page 12



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US Vice President Al Gore share a light moment at the CSCE meeting in Lisbon yesterday.

PM: There is calm on Syrian front

DAVID MAKOVSKY and Ilim

"THERE are clear signs of calm on the Syrian front," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday told Israeli reporters accompanying him on his visit to the OSCE conference in Lisbon. Netanyahu said the possibility of renewing peace talks with the Syrians is being explored.

"There are clear signs of things calming down. I repeat this. I don't think it would be appropriate to give details; however, you may assume that, if I say so, then there's a reason for it," Netanyahu said.

"Of course," he added, "this does not exempt us from scrupulously guarding the security of the State of Israel."

At least two European leaders told Netanyahu yesterday during meetings in Lisbon that they oppose his policy of expanding existing settlements.

Israel Radio reported that both France's President Jacques Chirac and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi separately told Netanyahu that such activity hurts the peace process.

Netanyahu also held quick discussions with Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He is expected to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa today to discuss the strain in the bilateral relationship. There are no plans for Netanyahu to meet with Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

Leaders from 52 countries are in attendance at the Organization of Cooperation and Security in

Europe session in Lisbon.

Later today, Netanyahu heads to Spain and tomorrow, he holds talks in Ireland before returning home tomorrow night. Ireland currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Channel 2 reported that Arafat canceled his planned participation in the Lisbon summit after learning that Netanyahu would refuse to meet with him there, a decision that apparently had met with US endorsement.

Eldad Beck adds from Paris: Chirac told Netanyahu in their Lisbon meeting that Israel should make "a significant gesture" to improve the political atmosphere and to relaunch the peace process. He warned Netanyahu that unless such a gesture is made, new waves of terror attacks would occur.

Israeli-Arab fundamentalists split into two camps

DAVID RUDGE

THE fundamentalist Islamic Movement in Israel has split into two camps - one more pragmatic and the other more radical - following its historic decision earlier this year to run in Knesset elections, according to Dr. Elie Rekhess, an expert on the Israeli Arab sector.

The radical element, according

to Rekhess, has more affinity to - and even associations with - Islamic organizations in the territories, especially Hamas.

The pragmatic faction, led by the movement's spiritual head Sheikh Abdallah Nimr Darweesh, more readily accepts the situation

of Moslems in Israel as a minority in a non-Islamic state.

"A trend that is clearly emerging is the strengthening of this affinity between the radical element of the Islamic movement in Israel and the Islamic opposition, primarily Hamas, in the West Bank and Gaza," said Rekhess.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mordechai: IDF needs money now

LIAT COLLINS

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that he hopes to resume negotiations with Arab countries, but needs a larger budget for the IDF to answer immediate security needs.

Speaking with reporters outside the committee meeting, Mordechai said: "We are looking forward to continuing negotiations with Syria and other Arab countries. Our strategy is to continue with the peace

process and at the same time not to damage Israeli security."

"I'm sure the IDF and the Defense Ministry have everything they need to continue to ensure the security and defense of the state. The IDF is one of the most modern forces in the world and one of the strongest in the Middle East with an excellent command and excellent units and has all the capabilities to do everything necessary," he said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Aguda official denies he said Reform caused Holocaust

HAIM SHAPIRO

PINCHAS Horowitz, deputy chairman of Agudat Yisrael, yesterday denied saying the Reform Movement caused the Holocaust, but a recording appeared to indicate that if he did not actually say so, he implied it.

Horowitz made the controversial remarks at a press conference on Sunday announcing a rally Agudat is to hold in Tel Aviv tomorrow to protest High Court of Justice decisions the party views as anti-religious.

When contacted yesterday, Horowitz said he had not said anything directly linking Reform and the Holocaust.

"I didn't say that. It's all lies. I only said positive things," Horowitz said yesterday, when asked about the comments attributed to him.

However, a recording of the press conference appeared to indicate otherwise. Horowitz first dwelt on the fact that Hitler had come to power in Germany, where "95 percent of the Jews were Reform and assimilated." Then he went on to say that the lesson was that Hitler arises where Jews are not observant.

"That teaches that when you

destroy that which exists, the Shabbat, when you destroy Judaism, when you destroy faith in the Almighty, Hitler arises."

It was that situation, he said, which he and his colleagues did not want to see in Israel.

Yesterday Horowitz denied saying that Reform had caused the Holocaust, but he did say on a radio news program that Reform did not belong to Judaism. On another radio program, he said he considered Reform Jews worse than secular Jews, because the

Reform had a movement and wanted to influence the public, while the secular Jew simply did not observe.

"The Reform are the ones who do everything to destroy religion," he said.

In response, Anat Galili-Blum, spokeswoman for the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that the use of the Holocaust for political manipulation was sickening and not worthy of response. As for Horowitz's other comments on the Reform, she said that the movement was considering a libel suit.

Above All...
 Live & Invest with the No. 1 Private Bank

"The Jewel of the Israeli Banking Industry,"
 Salomon Brothers 26.2/96
 "First International is the best regarded of the major Israeli banks..."
 Union Bank of Switzerland, global research report, 13.12.95
 First International is ranked No. 1 among the five leading banks in Israel
 by Thomson Bank Watch, 3.1.96

It was not easy to achieve such high regard from such prestigious international institutions. It took years of hard work and conducting business by a clearly defined business philosophy that focuses on safety. Mainly the protection of our clients assets and shareholders investments.

Our state of the art practices and the performance of our professional staff are clearly reflected in customer satisfaction and in our balance sheet. Year after year.

FIB's International Private Banking offers non-Israeli residents, new immigrants and Israelis living abroad custom tailored products and services that meet their individual financial needs based on confidentiality and security.

For further information, contact our International Private Banking Department.
 Tel Aviv, 22 Allenby St.
 Tel: (972)-3-5100536
 Fax: (972)-3-5100827
 or our subsidiaries:
 FIB Bank (UK), 24 Creechurch Lane,
 London EC3A 5EH, Tel: (+44)-171-2855333,
 FIB Bank (Switzerland), 45 Bleicherweg,
 Zurich 8027, Tel: (+41)-1-2016969
 or at the offices of Republic National Bank of New York.

YOUR STATE OF THE ART BANK
THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK OF ISRAEL



Jerusalem Post Subscription Sales and Service ☎ 177-022-2726



Fauzia Jibran visits her four-year-old daughter Liel at Schneider Childrens Medical Center for Israel, in Petah Tikva yesterday. The child last week received a lobe from her mother's liver in a revolutionary operation. (Dana Steiner/Israel Sim)

Police say 'modesty squad' apparently not involved in beating of haredi woman

Amit: Squads employ tactics of intimidation, but rarely use violence

THE haredi "modesty squads" in Jerusalem do not use violence, and do not appear to have any connection to the beating of Dalia Batzon last week, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Amit was speaking at a special session of the committee called to discuss the attack by a haredi man on Batzon, who was sheltering a haredi woman whose husband had deserted her.

Amit said the police have been investigating the attack on Batzon intensively, but there is so far no hint of any involvement by the modesty squads.

Modesty squads, he continued, have been around since the 19th century, and serve as a form of internal community police force.

EVELYN GORDON

However, he said, the squads currently operating in Jerusalem do not, as far as he knows, use violence. They mainly concentrate on persuading straying youths to return to the fold by non-violent means, he said.

There were two cases in the past in which the modesty squads were involved in beatings, he added, and in both cases the perpetrators were indicted.

Asked by committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) whether the haredi community cooperates with the police, Amit responded that the community engages in stonewalling and cover-ups on matters relating to religion and culture. However, he said, it does cooperate on purely criminal investigations.

Rabbi Arye Shechter of the Jerusalem haredi community told the committee that many years ago, intimidation and beatings were common tactics of the modesty squads. Today, however, the squads confine themselves to verbal persuasion, he said.

Cohen demanded that the police thoroughly investigate the beating of Batzon in particular and violence within the haredi community in general. He said he had met recently with a divorced haredi woman who told him that the modesty squads followed her around, threatened her and her family, listened in on her phone calls, publicly denounced her and effectively isolated her from the community. The woman refused to testify before the committee, he said, for fear that the squads would take revenge on her children.

Police: Wakf plans to destroy Christian site

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM police recently received intelligence information on plans by the Wakf, the Moslem religious authority, to demolish a Christian holy site on the Temple Mount. Police sent an urgent message to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warning of dire consequences if this happened.

Police sources said yesterday that the threat remained. Kahalani, however, said that he was assured by Wakf Director Adnan Hussein that the site, known to Christians as "Jesus' Cradle," would not be harmed.

"There are no plans to damage the site," Kahalani said.

The minister said he warned Hussein that the state would not tolerate any harm being done to the site, which in Christian tradition is where Mary placed the 40-day-old Jesus in his cradle, and where Jesus later delivered sermons.

Kahalani said the Wakf has been allowing Christian pilgrims to go to the site, located in the newly renovated Marawani prayer area adjoining al-Aksa Mosque, and that they would continue to be permitted there.

However, police sources said Kahalani may have spoken too

soon. They said the intelligence information that was passed on to the minister by Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit still needs to be thoroughly investigated.

Kahalani yesterday updated Acting Prime Minister David Levy on the situation. The Internal Security Ministry also reissued a statement that it would not tolerate any changes to the site.

Christian-Moslem relations in Jerusalem in recent years have been shaky at times. Damage to the Temple Mount site could have serious repercussions, as well as raise questions about Israel's handling of Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

Haifa, Ashdod port workers back on the job after strike

DAVID RUDGE

WORK at the Haifa and Ashdod ports resumed yesterday, after employees ended a wildcat strike. They had been protesting proposed taxes that they said would cut salaries and pensions.

Management increased the size of work teams to reduce the backlog of cargo and container ships kept waiting for loading and unloading as a result of the strike.

The spokesman for the Haifa port said management hoped the backlog would be cleared within 24 hours. He said workers returned

to normal duties Sunday night. The strike, which began Thursday, resulted in 30 ships being tied-up at jetties at the Haifa port or anchored in the bay.

Port officials said the cost of a 24-hour delay in port for a ship was \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on the size of the vessel and its cargo.

The strike erupted over plans by the Ports and Railways Authority to levy an 11 percent tax on all income from work carried out by

the authority.

The Treasury has proposed establishing a separate pension fund for the workers that would not be affected by the planned new tax.

Talks between Treasury officials, the Transport Ministry and the ports authority continued yesterday.

The Histadrut has pledged the proposed tax will not be implemented until the new pension fund is established. It was this promise that persuaded the port workers to end their strike.

IDF tracker unit head indicted for smuggling heroin

THE head of the IDF Arava region's trackers unit was indicted yesterday in Beersheva District Court for smuggling a large quantity of heroin from Jordan.

Maj. Fay Salam Almiatal, 45, of the el-Azzama Beduin tribe, was charged together with three Rahat residents, who are suspected of receiving the drugs from Almiatal, with the aim of transferring them to the center of the country.

According to the indictment, the four made contacts with Jordanian residents in order to carry out the transfer. Southern District police received a tip on the impending deal and, in coordination with the IDF, carried out surveillance of Almiatal's activities in the Arava.

received 13 kg. of heroin from Jordanian drug suppliers. The next morning, the three Rahat residents arrived in the Arava at their meeting point, an IDF shooting range near Kibbutz Yotvata. The drugs, hidden in an army water canister, were handed over to the three.

The Rahat men then traveled north, but were stopped by police. Almiatal was arrested shortly afterward as he was driving north.

At the hearing, the prosecution asked the judge to remand the four until the end of trial, citing overwhelming evidence.

However, the judge agreed to put off a hearing on the matter for three weeks to enable the defense to study the evidence.

Former Likud treasurer appeals sentence in fund-raising scam

MENAHEM Atzmon, who served as co-treasurer of the Likud with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert in 1988, appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday against his conviction for running a fund-raising scam during the 1988 campaign.

The scam worked by giving businessmen fictitious receipts in exchange for donations to the Likud. This enabled Likud to get illegal contributions from corporations and allowed the companies to take tax deductions as if the donations were legitimate business expenses. The NIS 1 million raised in this fashion was then omitted from the party's report to the state comptroller, enabling the party to get NIS 2m. in campaign funding from the government.

On Sunday, the state appealed Atzmon's acquittal on some of the charges and the leniency of his sentence.

Atzmon argued that the prosecution failed to prove he knew about the scam. The Tel Aviv District Court's verdict was based largely on the belief that there was no way he could not have known, he charged, but the court did not even consider the possibility that the information was deliberately hidden from him.

Since Atzmon was not responsible for fund-raising and had nothing to do with this field, it was easy to keep him in the dark, the appeal contended.

The appeal also argued that the court treated police statements made by Atzmon after the affair hit the news as if they were confessions. All of these statements, Atzmon said, were based only on information that reached him after the investigation started, and did not reflect what he knew at the time.

Evelyn Gordon

Health Ministry casts doubt on 'healthier' egg claim

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday warned against advertisements for enriched eggs that it claimed were "misleading."

Dr. Dorit Nitzan Kalusky, the head of the ministry's nutrition department, said she sent a file about Beitz Plus eggs to the ministry's legal adviser to decide if action should be taken against the company. The eggs are sold by the Ramot Hashavim farm near Hod Hasharon.

A few months ago, the company launched a new product - eggs laid by hens fed a diet rich in flaxseed. The eggs are purported to have a high level of the polyunsaturated fat Omega 3 (up to 19 times as much as regular eggs) and vitamin E (twice as much), as well as 15% less cholesterol.

The company's ads say, "you can now eat Beitz Plus in reasonable quantities without raising your blood cholesterol level."

The ministry says Beitz Plus eggs include cholesterol and saturated fat just like conventional eggs. "There is no proof that eating these eggs causes a general reduction in the cholesterol level," Nitzan Kalusky said. People with high levels of cholesterol in their blood should get medical advice before eating the eggs, she said. The ads are thus "misleading," she said.

Of course, one of Beitz Plus' owners, rejected the ministry's claims. "It is true that 15% less cholesterol is not very significant, but it is true that the Omega 3 and vitamin E help to reduce blood cholesterol levels. This has been accepted around the world."

Jerusalem councillors approve renovations to PM's residence

BILL HUTMAN

A CONTROVERSIAL renovation plan for the prime minister's residence was approved yesterday by the Jerusalem Municipality's planning committee, following an unprecedented appearance before the committee by the head of the General Security Service's VIP protection department.

The GSS officer said that for security reasons he preferred that the committee not visit the residence for a first-hand view of

changes already carried out and those planned.

He also rejected the suggestion of councillor Yisrael Shulderman that the members be allowed to enter the garden in front of the residence, which is classified as a protected building and thus restricted in terms of renovations.

The renovation - which allows for the closing of a porch and

construction of a small laundry room on the roof - was approved by a 6-2 vote. Shulderman and another opposition member voted against.

"The excuse of 'security reasons' was used to push through an unsound plan," Shulderman said. He said the committee must take into account the special security requirements of the prime minister's residence, but this need not be at the cost of damaging a historic building.

Several AIDS groups boycott Knesset talks

EVERY year the Knesset marks international AIDS day, and every year MKs from haredi parties boycott it. So what was different this year? This time, the discussions in parliament were boycotted by the umbrella organization for 15 non-governmental groups dealing with AIDS and human rights.

The group, "Living with AIDS," did not attend the committee or plenum sessions on the subject because, according to AIDS activist Patrick Levy, "Every year they just talk without taking real action to improve the lives of AIDS victims."

The Education Committee chaired by

Emanuel Zissman (Third Way) held a joint session with the Labor and Social Affairs Committee, chaired by Maxim Levy (Gesher), on the subject. The meeting was attended by some groups and some sufferers. As in previous years, the MKs called for more information campaigns and better education. Lia Collins

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rachel's Tomb to remain closed on Shabbat
The Religious Affairs Ministry has rejected a request by settlers and Gilo residents to open Rachel's Tomb on Shabbat so they could pray there. After consulting with the chief rabbis and the rabbi of the Holy Sites Authority, the ministry decided not to grant the request because it would result in a desecration of Shabbat.

If the site, near Bethlehem, were opened, visitors would travel there and security guards would need to work on Shabbat, the ministry said. At present, the tomb closes on Friday afternoons and reopens on Sunday mornings.

Filmmaker donated funds for research
The late American filmmaker Sam Spiegel donated \$500,000 to Israel's National Academy of Sciences to establish a new fund for promoting research into and publication of Jewish manuscripts from the Middle Ages, the academy announced yesterday. The money was donated by the filmmaker in memory of his brother, Prof. Shalom Spiegel, who was a specialist in the field.

The academy has established a project for researching poetry and physiology that were saved in the Geniza (storehouse of deteriorating holy manuscripts). The Spiegel fund will allow the completion of the computerization of these text.

Nurses conference today in Jerusalem
The prevention of venereal diseases among Ethiopian immigrant girls, cultural differences in reaction to post-surgical pain, treatment of patients undergoing a sex change, home-care for children with cancer, and the effects of the Patients' Rights Law on nursing are among the topics to be discussed at the 10th national conference of the Israel Nurses' Association.

The two-day event begins this morning in Jerusalem's International Convention Center and will be greeted by President Ezer Weizman and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

Arab councils to pitch protest tent

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arab council heads plan to pitch a protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office Sunday as part of a campaign to press the government to bail-out their debt-ridden local authorities.

The council heads also intend to invite foreign ambassadors to the protest tent and present them with documents highlighting the plight of the councils and the problems of the Arab sector.

The planned protest follows what the council heads described as the collapse of municipal services in many Arab towns and villages because of crippling debts.

They maintain that repeated appeals to the government for urgent assistance have gone unanswered, despite a 24-hour warning strike by the Arab councils and a demonstration in Jerusalem of hundreds of municipal employees.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads, said a recent meeting with Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu and talks in Shfar'am last Thursday with Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav, who is also responsible for Arab affairs,

had been "very disappointing."

He said the protest tent would be set up Sunday and would be manned by council heads 24-hours-a-day for an indefinite period until the government agreed to help the crippled Arab councils.

"During this period, we intend to meet with foreign ambassadors at the protest tent, beginning with those from the US, Canada, France, Egypt and Jordan. Invitations will be sent out to them this week," said Suleiman, who is also head of Mashhad council near Nazareth.

Suleiman noted that the 53 Arab councils had altogether accumulated debts totalling NIS 430 million over the years, and more than half were unable to provide services to the public.

"Salaries have not been paid to municipal workers, including those in schools and kindergartens, some of them for several months. Many of the councils are unable to pay water and electricity bills," said Suleiman.

"The situation is desperate, but so far the government has shown no willingness to do anything to alleviate the situation," he said.

Israel electric תכנת החשמל

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods:

| TENDER | DESCRIPTION | COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS, INC. VAT (NON-RETURNABLE) |
|--|--|---|
| 578852 | Cable Covers | NIS 351 |
| Last day for submitting bids: December 22, 1996, at 11 a.m. | | |
| 578668 567896 | Twisted Copper Tapes Flexible Pipes | NIS 351 NIS 351 |
| Last day for submitting bids: December 29, 1996 at 11 a.m. | | |
| 523562 | Fire Resistant Telephone Cable Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices Special participation conditions: 1. A potential supplier must submit confirmation that the manufacturer of the goods has a certificate, attesting that his products comply with standard ISO 9002, or Israeli Standard 2002. 2. The Electric Corporation reserves the right to consider an alternative technical method of achieving the objective of this tender, as stated in the specification. 3. Because of the condition stated in (1) above, the Electric Corporation reserves the right to cancel the tender. Pre-conditions for participating in this tender: 1. The potential supplier is to submit a one meter sample length of cable. This is to be accompanied by copies of dispatch notes, signed to confirm the submission of a sample. 2. Goods to be supplied are to be "shall goods" (as defined in the specification). 3. The sample must be received, not later than the last date for submitting proposals. | NIS 936 |
| Last day for submitting bids: January 5, 1997 at 11 a.m. | | |
| Pre-conditions for participating in all tenders (apply in addition to conditions given for a specific tender): A. A guarantee of 5% of the bid total, in the form of a private check, should be attached to the bid, except for tenders requesting technical information only (Stage A). B. Participation in a tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses). C. If a bidder omits to provide a copy of any permit, permission, license, or any other document required in the pre-conditions, the Israel Electric Corporation may allow him to complete his documentation, and submit such documents, within a stated time to be fixed by the Corporation. The tender documents may be obtained on Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sierot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-returnable) of the cost of the documents, into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615455/4). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid. NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible. | | |

Russia attacks plans to expand NATO at security conference

LISBON (Reuters) - Russia attacked NATO's plans for enlargement, and Belarus came under fire at a security summit yesterday, sounding a jarring note as some 50 nations met to try and build lasting peace in Europe for the next century.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told assembled leaders that NATO would create new fault lines on the continent if it went ahead with plans to take in countries from Eastern Europe as new members.

"Is it not clear that the appearance of new dividing lines would lead to a worsening of the whole geopolitical situation in the world?" Chernomyrdin asked the opening session of the two-day meeting.

The last summit of the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), two years ago in Budapest, was

wrecked by a row on the same issue and differences over Bosnia.

The United States and NATO secretary-general Javier Solana insisted that the alliance posed no threat to anyone and that it wanted to cooperate with Russia.

"NATO has been and remains a defensive alliance... It poses no threat to any other state," US Vice President Al Gore told the summit. "The stability that NATO can help extend to Central Europe can help ensure the security of all nations."

"We will continue to try and reassure the Russians. I hope we will manage to do so," Solana told Reuters.

Gore later told reporters that plans for a NATO summit next year, which would name the new countries to join the alliance, would go ahead on schedule despite Russian opposition.

Czech Prime Minister Vaclav

Klaus told reporters his country still expected to be among the first to join the alliance and added: "We do not think our membership is aimed against Russia."

However, the Lisbon meeting did reach agreement on an issue of concern to Russia - adapting and extending a Cold War-era arms treaty which Moscow says no longer reflects reality.

A new round of talks on conventional arms reductions in Europe is expected to start in Vienna in January as a result.

The crises in Belarus and Serbia also detracted from the summit's intended harmony. Western nations told Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, accused of trying to acquire dictatorial powers, to put the former Soviet republic back on the track to democracy. A defiant Lukashenko responded by telling leaders to mind their own business.



A Moslem militant waves the victory sign as he leaves a Cairo state security court yesterday. The court sentenced five Moslem militants to death for killing civilians and policemen in the south in 1993.

Yeltsin to dismiss top Russian general

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The commander of Russia's land forces faced being sacked yesterday for "actions incompatible with his post" but the Kremlin said President Boris Yeltsin had yet to sign the order dismissing him.

Gen. Vladimir Semynov, 56, said he was stunned by the news and denied any wrongdoing.

He told the *Izvestia* newspaper he had been called in by Defense Minister Igor Rodionov on Friday evening and told he was being sacked because of serious allegations about unspecified "commercial activities" of his wife, who works in the Moscow office of Rosventol, a Russian helicopter manufacturer.

The Defense Ministry said

Semyonov was fired "for actions which discredit the honor and dignity of a serviceman and are incompatible with his post."

But later a Kremlin statement said the dismissal order had yet to be signed, but it said Yeltsin "agreed in principle" with it.

The presidential press service said the ministry had jumped the gun by presenting the dismissal as a fait accompli when it had not yet been formalized.

"This is wholly unexpected," Interfax news agency quoted Semyonov as saying. "I have not received any concrete and convincing accusations from the defense minister and the reasons for my dismissal remain unclear."

BBC urged to censure Alastair Cooke over rape remarks

LONDON (AP) - The BBC has been urged to impose stricter editorial controls over Alastair Cooke, its veteran commentator on American affairs, after a broadcast in which he allegedly made sexist remarks.

Commenting on a survey that showed 4 percent of women in the US armed forces had been raped or suffered attempted rape, Cooke, 88, said he thought the men "showed remarkable restraint" and wondered aloud why the figure was so low.

The remarks came in the November 24 edition of his "Letter from America," the sometimes acerbic and often witty weekly commentary he has written and recorded for BBC radio since March 1946.

BBC spokeswoman Stella Tooth said it had received "a very small number of complaints" from the public, although some BBC presenters have criticized Cooke.

Writer and broadcaster Bel Mooney told *The Times* newspaper that BBC editors must restrain Cooke. "He is a man of a certain generation and maybe that sort of remark was acceptable when he was young," she said. "Today it is not, and the BBC should check what he writes."

"Alastair is an institution, but perhaps he has passed his sell-by date," *The Times* quoted an unidentified BBC presenter as saying.

"The remark was not sexist - more of a facetious aside. But it should have been picked up by an editor because it could be seen as gratuitously offensive."

The BBC defended Cooke in a statement yesterday.

"Alastair Cooke has a right to express his personal view, within the bounds of legality, on an issue currently creating a stir in America," the statement said.

Although "Letter from America" is not broadcast in the US, Cooke is well known in American journalism circles. From 1971 to 1993, he presented "MasterpieceTheater" on PBS.

New militancy worries for India after 12 die in Punjab train blast

AMBALA, India (Reuters) - A bomb shattered a sleeper coach in an Indian train early yesterday, killing 12 passengers and injuring 37 in what police said could mark a surge in separatist violence in the volatile Punjab region.

The blast and ensuing inferno destroyed the sleeper compartment and damaged an adjoining carriage at Ambala station near Chandigarh, capital of the northern state of Punjab.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility. But police said they feared the blast could be part of an escalation of violence before state assembly elections in Punjab due by February.

Police said they believed the sophisticated

explosive RDX was used but they were still investigating.

For a decade until the early 1990s, Punjab state was torn by a Sikh separatist revolt in which at least 20,000 people died.

The explosion was believed to be the deadliest attack on a train in the region since Sikh militants stopped a train near Ludhiana city in late 1991 and systematically slaughtered at least 53 passengers, mostly Hindus.

Police said a senior leader of a splinter group of the regional Akali Dal party was gunned down Sunday night.

Bachitar Singh, a former state legislator from the Akali Dal (Badal) faction, was ambushed by five gunmen who opened fire on

the jeep in which he was travelling in Ropar district of Punjab, about 20 km from Chandigarh, they said. The Akali Dal is the political arm of Sikhs who oppose separatist violence in Punjab state.

Separatist militancy has largely died down in Punjab, which held its last state assembly elections in 1992 under tight security and a boycott by separatist groups.

Witnesses said it took rescuers nearly half an hour to show up, and that the raging blaze in the wood and steel carriage prevented them from reaching any victims for two hours. After battling the fire, rescuers pulled 10 bodies from the charred carriage. Two injured passengers died later.

New Moldovan president was Kremlin insider

CHISINAU (Reuters) - Petru Lucinschi, who was once a leading communist official in the Kremlin, was elected president of Moldova, after beating the former Soviet republic's first post-independence leader in a run-off vote on Sunday.

Preliminary results yesterday gave the 56-year-old chairman of the national parliament an eight-point win over President Mircea Snegur, with 54 percent to 46%. Turnout was 72%, compared to 67% in the November 17 first round.

Lucinschi, who was secretary of the Communist Party central committee in the final days of the Soviet Union, presents himself as a social democrat in the mold of other east European ex-communists who have won back power through elections.

Favoring good relations with Moscow, he attacked as "savage capitalism" Snegur's plans for faster market reforms, such as the complete privatization of rural Moldova's land.

Flower girls lead anti-Milosevic demonstration

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Some 20,000 students led by girls carrying flowers demonstrated against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday in defiance of a government threat to crack down on two weeks of street unrest.

Chanting protesters, blowing trumpets and waving football rattles, jeered at knots of police who watched as the march weaved through central Belgrade, gathering support despite a snow storm.

"They teach us to think for ourselves at university, but now Sloba and his mates expect us to switch off our brains when they speak," a philosophy student said. "Only a five year old would be fooled by this."

The size of the turnout indicated that a warning from the socialist government on Sunday that police were running out of patience with daily demonstrations had failed to cool dissent.

Britain reflected international dismay over Milosevic's handling of a crisis that sprang from his rigging local elections last month.

"We call on the Serbian authorities to respect the democratic right of peaceful demonstration without qualification," a Foreign Office statement said in London.

With no sign of the protests flagging, political sources said the government was desperately seeking a way out of the dispute that would enable it to save face. It cancelled a session of the Serbian parliament scheduled for today, when the Zajedno (Together) coalition of opposition parties was due to demand that the disputed elections be set aside.

Zajedno threatened to start a boycott of parliament if the results were allowed to stand, robbing it of victories it claimed in Belgrade and other cities.

Although the police presence was unobtrusive again yesterday, Milosevic has mobilized large reserves of security forces in readiness.

The rolling protests, attracting up to 100,000 people, are demanding Milosevic's removal in the longest sustained challenge he has faced in nine years of power.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton 'thrilled' by reports of Yeltsin recovery
WASHINGTON (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he was "thrilled" by reports of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recovery from heart surgery last month.

"We're all thrilled at the reports we get of President Yeltsin's excellent recovery from his surgery," Clinton said at an event honouring US astronaut Shannon Lucid, who spent more than six months on the Russian space station Mir.

Yeltsin, 65, underwent quintuple heart bypass surgery on November 5.

Doctors hopeful Mother Teresa will recover
CALCUTTA (Reuters) - Mother Teresa said her prayers and ate lunch sitting in a chair yesterday, and doctors said they were optimistic the 86-year-old nun would recover from her third heart surgery in five years.

"She is stable and we are very optimistic about her recovery," US doctor Patricia Aubanel, a member of the medical team treating the Roman Catholic missionary, told reporters at Calcutta's B.M. Birla Heart Research Center.

Mother Teresa, considered by many a living saint for her devotion to the poor, destitute and dying, had surgery on Friday to clear two blocked coronary arteries. She is also suffering kidney and lung problems, as well as pneumonia.

Keep your lazy cow happy - on a waterbed
AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - A Dutch rubber factory has begun producing waterbeds for cows - and its first clients are crazy about the product, the daily *De Volkskrant* said yesterday.

About 180 of the luxury bovine mattresses have been delivered to a farmer in England whose herd has taken to them so well that another 100 are on order.

The cows were initially wary of the tough, water-filled rubber mats, which can be filled with hot water for extra pampering but, having tried them once, they did not want to get off, the daily quoted the farmer as saying. He was not named.

"It is good for a cow to lie comfortably. Then she will produce more milk," a salesman at the Dunlop-Enerka factory in Drachten said. "Cows can be compared to top athletes: under the best circumstances they will give their greatest performances."

No Matter What You Think of the Peace Agreements OLEG IN OSLOLAND will make you laugh, or cry, or both...

Oleg strikes again... 112 new cartoons on the "peace process" by Oleg Schwartzburg, one of today's most impudent and controversial cartoonists. This time - with Hebrew and Russian texts!!! Hot off the press - in a softcover souvenir album. JP Price NIS 30

Still available

Oleg in Peaceland - JP Price NIS 25
JP Special for both albums - NIS 49

All prices include VAT, p & h in Israel

Airmail overseas - please add NIS 12 per book

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 9100 e-mail: orders@jpost.co.il

Please send me Oleg in Osloland - NIS 30 per copy
 Oleg in Peaceland - NIS 25 per copy
 Both albums - NIS 49 per set

Enclosed is my check, payable to The Jerusalem Post
Credit card orders accepted by phone/fax/e-mail

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Code _____
Tel (day) _____

Please list gift recipients' names and addresses separately.

Give a Special Gift for the Holidays

Share The Jerusalem Post with a friend, relative or colleague

Give a gift of The Jerusalem Post International Edition, the paper that will keep a dear friend or loved one informed about Israel and The Middle East. The unmatched coverage includes news and analysis of all important events and changes.

The Jerusalem Post International Edition keeps you up with current affairs and special features every week. Written and edited in Israel, it is the direct line to the homeland and offers the convenience of air-mail delivery. No other international publication can offer that, 52 weeks a year!

As the holidays grow near, why not take the perfect opportunity to give the perfect gift? Subscribe now!

Order one full year - 52 weekly issues - for just NIS-299.00*, payable in three equal installments of NIS 100 each.

* For orders outside the USA and Europe please add an additional NIS 30 for air-mail costs.

Yes! Please start a one year (52 weeks) subscription to The Jerusalem Post International Edition for NIS 299 (payable in 3 equal installments of NIS 100 each). Send to:

Name _____
Address/Apt. _____
City/State/Zip _____
Country _____
From: _____
Name _____
Address/Apt. _____
City/Zip _____
Tel _____

Checks are enclosed, payable to The Jerusalem Post

Please charge my: Isracard Visa American Express Diners Exp. _____

Card no. _____
Signature _____

Send orders to: The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000

For fast service: Call: 02-551-5649 Fax: 02-558-9017 e-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

THE JERUSALEM POST International Edition

MAKING PEACE WITH THE PLO

The Rabin Government's Road to the Oslo Accord

David Makovsky, the diplomatic correspondent of The Jerusalem Post, provides a clear, detailed and fascinating account of how, and equally important, why the Oslo agreement came about. The best insight into the Israeli side of the negotiations.

Published by Westview Press, softcover, 239 pp.
JP Price NIS 75 incl. VAT, p&h in Israel

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Please send me _____ copies of Making Peace with the PLO. Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post. Credit card orders accepted by phone.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Code _____ Tel. (day) _____

JERUSALEM D.C., NOT JERUSALEM C.D.

As Bible-believing Christians numbering more than 50 million in the United States of America, we support Jerusalem as the ancient and eternal capital of the Jewish people, promised by G-d Almighty to King David, Jerusalem D.C., David's Capital. We consider this support to be a Biblical mandate. We do not believe the people of Israel must negotiate over that which G-d Almighty has proclaimed as the Eternal City of David and Capital of the Nation of Israel according to the Bible.

Furthermore, we believe that this right has been hallowed by history, by sacrifice, by prayer, and by the yearning for peace. For Biblical, historical, humanitarian and legal reasons, we believe that Jerusalem is non-negotiable. Enough is enough! Our opinion was not considered when you were pressured to rip Jericho out of the Bible. Should we apologize to Moses and Joshua?

Jerusalem has been leveled to the ground five times and changed hands twenty-six times throughout history, as nations have desecrated your beloved city, turning it into a city of destruction.

We support Jerusalem D.C., (David's Capital), not Jerusalem C.D., (the citadel of destruction).

There is no possibility that Bible-believing Christians can support a divided Jerusalem. Yassir Arafat is wrong about East Jerusalem in wanting to claim it as the capital of his Palestinian state. His statement in saying that East Jerusalem, "is part of the land that has been occupied since 1967," is incorrect.

History records that East Jerusalem has been occupied from 597 B.C. to 1967, as nation after nation has attempted to take East and West Jerusalem from the Jewish people.

America has invested hundreds of billions of dollars since 1973, purchasing Arab oil. It is our prayer that Mr. Arafat and his Arab colleagues would invest a portion of our billions in improving the human rights of the Palestinian people, and that he would do for them what the Jewish people have done for Jerusalem and the land of Israel, that was reborn in '48 through hard work and sacrifice, draining the swamps and planting trees on the barren hills, rebuilding the Bible land in fulfillment of prophecy. It belongs to the Jewish people, and, more importantly, the title deed belongs to G-d Almighty. We pray that Mr. Arafat will proceed with the peace process and not return to terrorism. The vast majority of Christians have stopped visiting Bethlehem and Jericho because of gun-waving terrorists roaming the streets, having no respect for human rights.

If Jerusalem, G-d forbid, was divided, and East Jerusalem was given to Arafat, then it would be a citadel of destruction and we believe all of our Christian holy sites would be ultimately desecrated. Our prayer is that Jerusalem, Israel's eternal Capital, will be respected as such and that there will be no more weeping prophets because of land being traded for peace, a peace that still has not arrived.

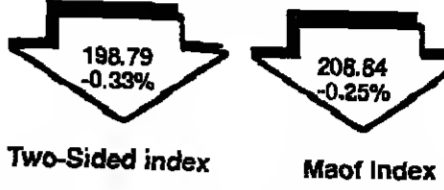
Surely the prophet Amos is rejoicing because of the courageous stand the people of Israel are making concerning your beloved city, Jerusalem and your security. **THERE IS A G-D.** 'And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled out of their land which I have given them,' says the Lord thy G-d."

- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Laura Acosta Rosline & Gary DeSanis Marie & Don Thomson David & Sarah Adams Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Allen Ciola Ames Nettie Lou Antoy Sandra Barnes In memory of: Dorothy Uselman Rosenbaum Ray & Tina Bass Alberto J. Bastidas Dorothy A. Bergman Wallace Bertrand Marlen Williams Binghamen Mrs. June Birdsong Christopher Birdsong Marsha Lee Black Druella C. Blindt Kathrine C. Borbonus Rozie Boyd Joseph & Gracie Britton Joseph Ray Britton Anthony D. Britton Timothy D. Britton Josh Britton Eliash Britton Matthew Britton Gene Britton Charlotte Worley Mr. & Mrs. Donald Broeker Mrs. Cora Butje Lilie Mae Burch Beatrice Calaway Louise Hugh Calaway Joseph & Maxine Cardoni Bill & Nancy Carpenter In honor of: Billy Jay Driver Olson L. Carpenter William & Bobby Chapman Eleanor E. Cason Catherine Endres Ann Conant Mrs. Dorothy Connaughton Elizabeth David Mary Ann Dan Mark Edward & Maria Connerly Mrs. Dorothy Cornelius Lou V. Craig Mitchell & Peggy Cross Carmon & AnnMarie Cross Jeff & Malynia Olson Tanya, Angyle & Chelsea Cross Nick & Jane Duncan Rosemary Crum, Jr. Janice Darido Margaret Davenport Carmen Davis | Goldie Desker Charles James DeRider Ruby Donaldson David Dunlap Gloria Edwards Janice Edwards Milo Evans Carolyn Evans Shira Evans Rachel Evans Michael Evans Michelle Evans Evans' Grandchildren: Ashley Jason Joshua Richard & Rose Fiore Debra J. Fox Lillian G. Gallant Mrs. Victoria Gay Ronald & Judith Geuder Betty Gouldman Merion Dudley Angel Bobby Mike Mike Gladieux Pam Gladieux Almae Gladieux Ben Gladieux Nicole Gladieux Sheryl Gow Mrs. Bruce C. Griffin David Christian Gullford Varda Skiver Ed & Ann Harwell Jimmy Franklin Hicks Betty & Don Hill Kevin, Karen & Ryan Heath Briewey & Andrew Heath Gingot, Jim & Jennifer Coon Floyd Hivnor Mr. Leon Host Ruby Host Katie Host James & Patricia Hubbard Loretta Humphre James Cytus Bessie Cytus Louise Mae Humphre Charles Henry Ince Dr. Robert Righter Leslie Righter Daniel Righter Carroll Righter Chris Righter Noelle Righter Yvette Righter Genevieve Righter Lawrence Rogers Debra Rogers Linda M. Rummel Gordon E. Sargani | Isaac Carmon Todd Tracey Kitty Christina Lopez David & Carolyn Mabry, Sr. Marjorie Mabry Sharon & Craig Lacey Richard Mabry Cheryl Hardy Raymond M. Mabry Koyssal & Justin Kaseley Vickie & Pamela Mabry Diane & Tom Keely Joshua & Jonathan Mabry Renae Mark Robert J. Malinski Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Maples Sylvia Gates Mayer Wayne & Becky McKinnis, Sr. Rabecca A. McKinnis Frank & Edith Meyer Eugene Elmer Miller Robert & Joyce Miller World Agepe Ministries Charles Manuel Molina Jon Morris Ted Nagle Julia T. Nelson In memory of: Caroleene Appleby William & Betty Nibelink Libum Forrest Ogil Robert M. Oliver Charles & Gail Oeland Robert Sturdy Marvin W. Parod Deborah L. Parod Eric D. Parod Adam J. Parod Craig Pastine Sean Pastine Nicole Pastine Mrs. Ellen B. Payne Louise E. Peddie, Jr. Josephina S. Price Gil & Debbie Ramos Joe & Marcie Rockard Earline Reeves Shouse Dr. Robert Righter Leslie Righter Daniel Righter Carroll Righter Chris Righter Noelle Righter Yvette Righter Genevieve Righter Lawrence Rogers Debra Rogers Linda M. Rummel Gordon E. Sargani | Don & Cynthia Schneider Reba S. Scott Hazel Severson Rev. Bonnie Anderson Mrs. Janet Nieman Jean Siemens Timothy Shinn Thomas G. Slank Mrs. Erin Whitaker Smith Victor & Jeanette Spence Don Stevens Marie Annette Stull Sarah Stevens Douglas Stevens Sarah Stevens Donovan Stevens Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Stiglich Elsine Strom Marie Annette Stull Esther & Oliver Stump Yoshio & Alice Taranaha Roy & Shirley Tart Charles Taylor David Thomson Sophia Thomson Sakome' E. Tobey Madeline Trask Emma Bommeman Trask Arthur & Myra Treiber Roma I. Turnberg John & Dora VanDusen Mrs. Gay Vickers Stephen Lee Vickers Kasim & Betty Wibelink Terry & Diane West Victor J. Wilms Majone A. Williams Buddy & Stacy Wimberley Gary Wolford Eric D. Parod Heather Wolford Carnie Spanbaugh Scott Spanbaugh Jim Merrill Chris Conzessa Helen Parnes Scott Conzessa Beryl & Esther Wolfson Anna L. Wood Charlotte Worley Dorrie & Barbara Wnght Dale & Jason Algo Shirley Augustyniak J. Michael Augustyniak Scott Augustyniak Christine Knight Teresa Sharp Amy Sharp Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Barnett Ruth L. Below David & Carolyn Bindel Linda Sugi | Johanna Veonstra Nellie Brewster Henry Brown Diane Burns Ralph Cobb Gloria Cox Gloria Cox Robert Lee Davis Redin Smith Mr. & Mrs. Rafael J. Diaz Korneth & Virginia Dorris Charles Wingfield Downing Justin M. Fennell Jan Fish Evelyn Bernice Helstrom Mr. & Mrs. Ron Fowler Walter V. Frederick Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gabriel Thalia Gibson Charles Mummert Mrs. Louise Gray Mrs. Wilma Ruth Hackney William & Susan Hammond John & Dora Harris Thomas Manuel Herndon William (Bill) Paul Hollars Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Indahl Janell Hargis Johnson John C. Johnson Maryjane Johnson Richard & Winston Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Johnson Pamela Gene Kaser Ray & Renee Kaufman Steven Kaufman Sandra Kaufman Dorlene F. Kenworthy Park F. Kline Loona Marie Koelgen Jane Leonard Margaret Leonard June & John McAllister James McAllister Jodi McAllister Joseph McAllister Milton & Pat McGregor Rhoda McGinney Margot McAllister Helen Cheri Mehal Perry Magon Mr. & Mrs. T. A. McSettle William Joseph Mosher Nita & Ray Nardi Christiane Nemnich Ann Olson Alfred & Irene Flourde Phyllis Raney Mark, Laura & Zachary Mrs. Caleb & Hannah Curtis, Cathy & Cuera Steve, Emily & Shelby | Jeff, Leigh & Aynsley Dorothy W. Ralston Florence Robison Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Schray David P. Schneider Earle & Hassland Segrest Michael Segrest Robert Durward Smith Mr. & Mrs. James A. Smith T. L. Smith Catherine Spaulding Helen Stibel Darnell Gaston Tomberlin Los Valakis Mary Kay VanCamp Helen R. Villarain Joseph R. Villarain Sarah Maile Villarain Jim Warren Rev. Raymond J. Weawerling In memory of: Shirley S. Weawerling James Williams Cornelia Williams Fannie Thompson Betty L. Yarbrough Brookia Taylor Darien Yarbrough Rhonda Young Family Louise Truesdell Linda Stess Levin Kathy E. Sohlman Rick Sohlman Lora Sohlman Sam Sohlman Margaret E. Stults Don & Myrna Carson Mrs. Kathleen R. McCann Lowell McCann Luke Benson Mr. & Mrs. William R. Stodder George Hodges Jennings John William Bernard Mrs. Joan Bernard Jean Pinkham Jane Ostrander Dana Vicknar Ima Vicknar Troy Vicknar Mrs. Helen T. Bush Cheryl B. Purcell Thomas J. Purcell Joel L. Purcell Jonathan D. Purcell Kenneth & Kates Baudin Obelia Messick Rufus N. Horswill Byron Nossau Horswill Barbara G. Kellogg Robert D. Jones Timothy G. Baker David Lee | Norris Patterson Madena Mayfield Jesse & Claude Catt Charles Cooper Steve Klaysen Mrs. Florence Keopke Jame Ann Leavitt Loveta B. Perton Donald Richard Perdue Mrs. Freda Pierce Walter A. & Golda L. Pribbenow Edith M. Sales Norman & Eloise Sauer Dr. & Mrs. Allen F. Schaeueman Joyce Bernhard Cynthia R. Binger Robert L. Singer Eric Roberts Lorne Bruns Oliver Bevins I Oliver Bevins II Mrs. Marthe E. Briggs Scott Bingg Cherie Chase Ethel E. Comeaux Percy Leroy Crockett Family Bill & Evelyn DeHmon Robert Travis Dodd Louise Bernard Dodd Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fenty Pat Holmes Michael Lemmons Thomas R. Holmes John Martinez Darin K. Winfree Mrs. Rose Fros Juliet M. Fros Patricia Pomutz Beverly Mount John A. Thompson Virginia Stewart Selma JoAnn Wilds Barbara Rice Goodwith Emmelyn N. Abnston Rufus R. Long Lore M. Moss Glenda Kay Moss Ruth L. Snowfield Mrs. Zena M. Wortman Jeanne Davis Leonard Gilliam Ashon Gilliam Doyle & Jund D. Jones Rebecca Mauch Stuart William Mauch, Jr. Roseanne R. Mauch Fr. Elias Abi Sarkis Victoria S. Mauch Esper Shewagen |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|

Stocks slip on weak earnings, loss reports

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS fell after a number of major companies reported lower earnings or losses, closing out what analysts said was otherwise a better-than-expected earnings season. Leading the market lower today were Elbit Ltd., Elco Holdings, Bezeq and Koor Industries Ltd. Through November, the main month of earnings season, the market has been very positive, said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities in Tel Aviv. The Two-Sided index rose nearly 6 percent in the month. At the same time, investors punished companies with weaker-than-expected results, he said. The Two-Sided index slipped 0.33% to 198.79, while the Maof eased 0.25% to 208.84 yesterday.

Elco Holdings Ltd. shares dropped 3.5%. The holding company for investments in retailing, consumer appliances and other fields reported third-quarter earnings dropped 84%. An Elco affiliate, Electra Consumer Products, which makes car air conditioners and appliances, saw its shares drop 10%. Electra reported third-quarter earnings fell 80% to NIS 4.3m. Elbit Ltd. one of three companies created when a three companies holding company split up, dropped 6.5%. This company, which focuses on TV manufacturing, electronic textile-inspection equipment and other businesses, fell even as it narrowed its third-quarter loss. The other two Elbit spinoffs, Elbit Medical and Elbit Systems, fell as well. The medical company, a maker of scanners, dropped 1.5%, while the other, a defense contractor, shed 1.25%. Also hurting stocks was Koor Industries Ltd., which eased 1.5%. Among gainers, Blue Square's competitor Supercol tacked on 0.75%. Sahar's Tsur picked Supercol as a company that best estimates a third-quarter earnings jump 22% on higher sales - and the stock is up more 10% since the report November 12. (Bloomberg)

German shares hit record as other Eurobourses slip

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - German shares powered to a record close yesterday, building on last week's rally with help from the strong dollar, which rose to almost a six-week high against the mark. Europe's other major bourses were weak. London was undercut by worries over interest rates and the strength of sterling, and Paris saw a mid-session recovery evaporate as Wall Street opened weak. The dollar rose against the mark after France and Germany reiterated their commitment to a stable franc-mark rate. It was also trading at a near two-year high against the Swiss franc. Germany's DAX index of 30 leading shares hit a new bourse record of 2,860.24 points in early trade, before paring gains slightly to close up 13.08 points, or 0.46 percent, at 2,856.60 points. Analysts had not been expecting the 2,850 point level to be breached until the end of the year, but the DAX has rallied 3% in the last week, boosted by the dollar's strength, which benefits German exporters. A major casualty was carmaker

Volkswagen AG, however, VW ended down almost 5%, or 29.50 marks, at 587 marks after investors sold stock on worries about the company's legal dispute with US carmaker General Motors over allegations of industrial espionage. British equity investors fretted over the strength of sterling and the likelihood that interest rates will be raised again as soon as January. The FTSE 100 index was off 20 points at its day's lows, with decliners outpacing advancers by a margin of more than two to one. French shares recovered early losses by mid-session but turned negative once more as Wall Street opened weak. Traders said the market needed to pause for breath after rising in leaps of about 1% last week, and looked well set to end the year on a new high, as long as there were no upsets from Wall Street. Carmakers Renault and PSA Peugeot Citroen extended falls after November car sales came in worse than expected with a 2.17% fall for the French market.

US shares mixed; retail stocks prosper

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks turned mixed yesterday after recovering with bonds from concerns that robust holiday sales and other signs of economic strength may jostle the tame inflation and interest rate outlook. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average closed unchanged from last Friday at 6,521.70, having recovered from an early slide of nearly 49 points. The technology-rich Nasdaq market rose to its sixth straight record high as computer-related shares rallied on hopes they would enjoy a good holiday shopping season. Investors initially used a weak bond market as incentive to secure some profits on the market's record-setting rally last month. But as usual, the early dip became

a buying opportunity, lifting most market measures back near the day's starting points. Stocks were pressured early by the bond market. As bond prices rebounded in the afternoon, the yield settled back down to 6.36%. Retail shares were among the market's few advancers. On the NYSE, Sears was one of the Dow's biggest gainers, and Kmart rose in active trading. The technology-rich Nasdaq market rose to its sixth straight record high as computer-related shares rallied on hopes they would enjoy a good holiday shopping season. Investors initially used a weak bond market as incentive to secure some profits on the market's record-setting rally last month. But as usual, the early dip became

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Rows include various currencies and their exchange rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and Shares.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices, categorized by NEW YORK, LONDON, and other markets. Includes columns for Name, Price, and Change.

Key Representative Rates table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET INDEXES table showing DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, and other indices.

Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indices.

Israeli stocks in US table listing various Israeli companies and their US market prices.

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC table listing various US stocks and their prices.

AG Associates table listing various companies and their prices.

AG Associates table listing various companies and their prices.

AG Associates table listing various companies and their prices.

INFL MONEY table listing various financial instruments and their prices.

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table showing various labor market indicators.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table listing various international financial data.

US commodities table listing various commodity prices.

London commodities table listing various commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US) table listing various metal prices.

New York metal futures table listing various metal futures prices.

London metal fixes table listing various metal prices.

Aussies lose Elliott, but sit pretty

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia captain Mark Taylor set West Indies a target of 340 runs to win the second Test on a day of despair for fellow opener Matthew Elliott yesterday.

West Indies openers Sherwin Campbell and Robert Samuels survived 12 tense overs late in the day to steer the tourists to 27 for no wicket at close of play on the fourth day at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

With their hopes of winning all but extinguished because of the slowness of the wicket, West Indies face the more realistic task of batting through a minimum of 90 overs on the fifth and final day to earn a draw.

Although few batsmen have been troubled by the wicket in terms of survival, all have struggled to score runs freely.

Elliott was denied a likely maiden Test century when he was forced to retire hurt on 78 because of a knee injury after a painful collision with teammate Mark Waugh.

Elliott and Waugh collided as they sprinted between the wickets in search of a second run with the total on 143 for two just before lunch.

Although both batsmen were knocked to the ground, Elliott managed to dive back to the safety of his crease, foiling West Indies' attempt to run him out. But he was unable to carry on batting after lengthy treatment.

It was cruel luck for Elliott, who made his Test debut in the first Test in Brisbane as a replacement for out-of-form opener Michael Slater.

Waugh made amends for his involvement in the incident by hitting a patient 67 as Australia painstakingly advanced to 312 for four in their second innings before Taylor declared the innings 40 minutes before the scheduled close.

West Indies endured a dismal day in the field after Australia resumed on 77 for two, an overall lead of 104 runs.

Australia, which won the first Test by 123 runs, scored 331 in its first innings in Sydney before dismissing West Indies for 304.

Do-or-die time for Man Utd, Ajax

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United and Ajax Amsterdam play away tomorrow in Champions League matches which will either propel them into the European Cup quarter-finals or wreck their respective seasons.

United travels to Rapid Vienna with its fate largely out of its own hands. It requires at least a draw, and will need a victory if Turkey's Fenerbahce steals a result against European champions Juventus in Turin on the same night.

Ajax, bidding for a third consecutive European Cup final appearance, is at least in control of its own destiny. If it wins tomorrow, it will qualify for the last eight.

But the same is true of its opponents Grasshopper Zurich and the four-time European champions can expect a torrid ride in Switzerland.

By contrast, United will be banking on a half-hearted approach from Rapid, whose hopes of a place in the second phase of Europe's leading club competition have long since disappeared.

Rapid coach Ernst Dokupil scrapped the team's usual training session on Sunday and did not bother to send a spy to watch United beat Leicester 3-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Instead, the Rapid players, two weeks into the Austrian league's winter break, have been amusing themselves recording and promoting a Christmas single.

Austria's top scorer Rene Wagner is struggling to overcome a bout of influenza before tomorrow. If he fails to recover, his place will go to Christian Stumpf, who scored in Rapid's first Champions' League clash in September.

Suspended Polish defender Andrzej Lesiak is its only certain absentee.

United welcomes back England international Gary Pallister, who has suffered from a recurring back

injury, at the heart of a defense which leaked goals during his absence.

"I feel fine now, and it is good to get back in the side and start playing again," the big defender said. "It will be a different game in Vienna than the one against Leicester. I think it will be very open which should suit us."

"We have players like Ryan Giggs, Karel Poborsky and Roy Keane who can run at defenders, and the win against Leicester has put us in good heart."

While United heads east at full strength, Ajax is still beset by injuries, although influential defender Frank de Boer looks set to return sooner than forecast after recovering from an ankle injury.

Captain Danny Blind has also been back in training after a long lay-off but still seems likely to miss out on the group A match in Zurich.

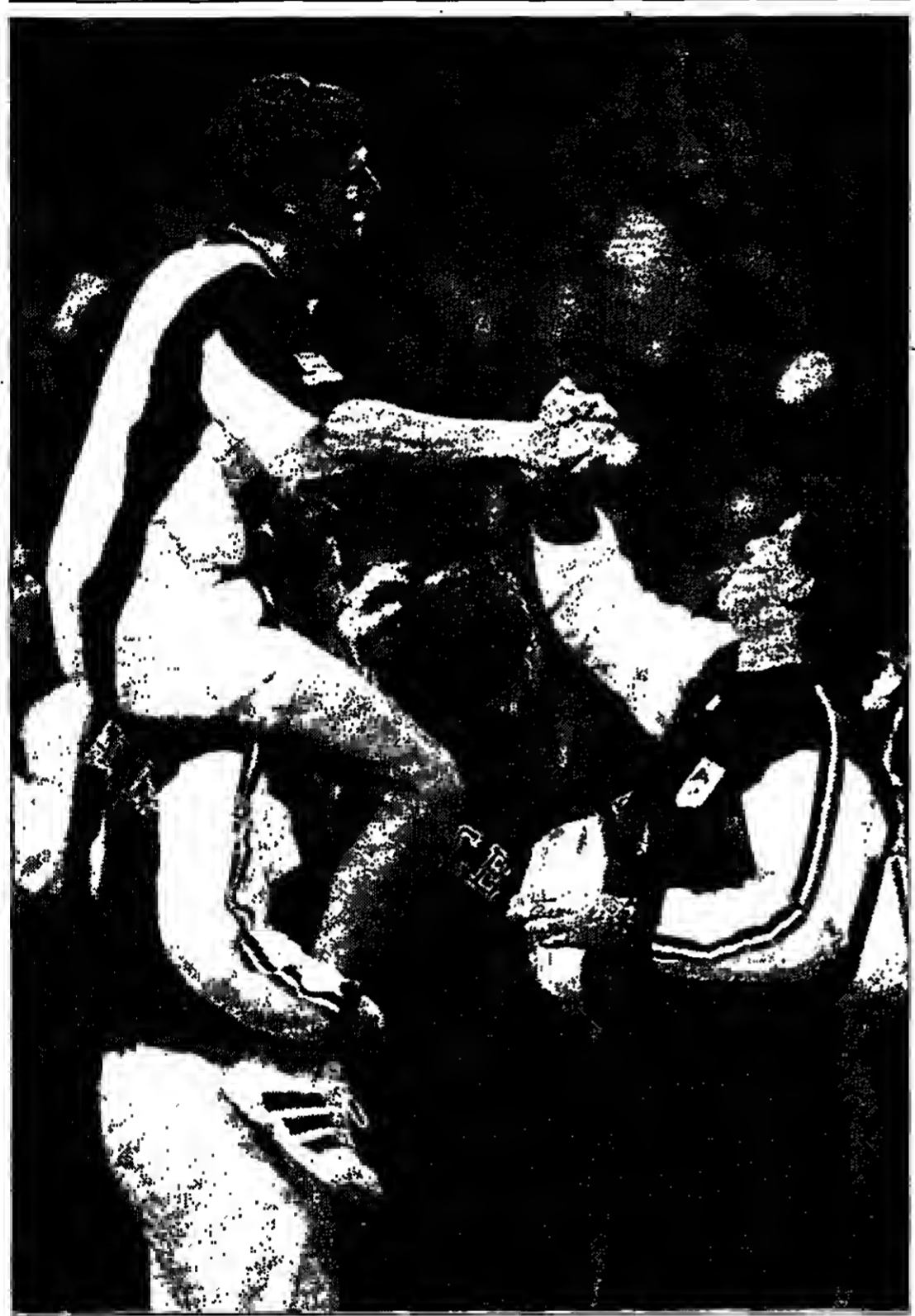
Grasshopper is without key striker Kuhlilay Turkylmaz and fellow-Swiss international Brent

Haas, both suspended after collecting second yellow cards in their defeat at Glasgow Rangers two weeks ago.

But the Swiss league's leading scorer Viorel Moldovan of Romania returns to the side which beat Ajax 1-0 in Amsterdam earlier in the tournament.

The other European giants still waiting on a quarter-final place are AC Milan, back under the guidance of Arrigo Sacchi, who resigned as Italy's coach on Sunday to return to the club where he made his name between 1987 and 1991. They need a point from a delicate home tie against Norway's Rosenborg to ensure an all-Italian quarter-final against group C winners Juventus.

Liberian striker George Weah is suspended after headbutting Porto's Jorge Costa at the end of Milan's last European match. French midfielder Marcel Desailly and right side midfielder Stefano Eranio are also out with two yellow cards apiece.



JOIE DE VIVRE - France's Arnaud Boetsch (l) jumps in the air as he is congratulated by Cedric Pioline after defeating Sweden's Nicklas Kulti in 5 sets to win the Davis Cup final.

France wins Davis Cup in final-day thriller

MALMO (Reuters) - France captured the Davis Cup on Sunday when Arnaud Boetsch survived three match points to overcome a spirited challenge from reserve singles Swede Nicklas Kulti and win the final thrilling five-set rubber 7-6, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6, 10-8.

It was the first time since the Davis Cup began in 1900 that the deciding match had gone to five sets and the result followed more than nine hours of gripping tennis with the two reverse singles going the full distance.

The trophy is France's second against the odds in five years. Under Yannick Noah's charismatic leadership, they upset the mighty US in Lyon in 1991 and Noah brought them to Sweden as underdogs again.

But Sweden's fortunes suffered six games into the first match on Friday when veteran campaigner Stefan Edberg fell, twisted his ankle and went on to lose to Cedric Pioline.

Edberg, playing his last competition before retiring, was forced to pull out of Sunday's decisive match and Kulti, clearly exhausted and suffering from leg pains, fought like a lion before going down to a man ranked 32 places above him.

Earlier, top Swede Thomas Enqvist won another nerve-sapping five-set marathon against Pioline 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 9-7 to keep Sweden in the tie, after France had clinched Saturday's doubles.

It was the first time in 11 years that the final remained undecided until a fifth match and the converted factory housing the tie erupted in noisy Gallic celebration.

The final was just what the competition needed to counter critics who accuse the Davis Cup of crowding the tennis schedule.

Leading American players including Andre Agassi have suggested the Cup should be played at most every other year and maybe once every four years.

But nobody in Malmo at the weekend would have agreed.

Edberg, who retired after the tie, said the Cup had to be played annually.

"It was probably the best tennis that can ever happen," Edberg said. "It is one of the world's biggest competitions in any sport and it involves so many countries."

"It must be played every year."

Noah concurred, "What I love about the Davis Cup is it is not about contracts, schedules and business. It's different. You have to sacrifice things for others, for the team. If you don't want to give up four weeks of your schedule, that's tough. You don't have to play."

International Tennis Federation president Brian Tobin said he worked hard to find suitable dates that fitted into the players' schedules.

"The main element that sets it apart from other tournaments is the home and away format which allows teams to generate great national interest and pride," he said.

Maccabi's 2nd-half spurt sinks Holon

ELI GRONER

HAPOEL Holon put up a valiant effort but Maccabi Tel Aviv proved to be too talented as the defending champions prevailed 94-77 on the road last night. The victory propelled Maccabi into first place in the National League standings while Holon suffered its first home loss of the season.

The league hegemony may not be in doubt, and the same must be said regarding the resiliency of coach Niv Bugin's Holon club. The hosts proved they are a genuine contender for a final-four berth by never giving up.

Asaf Barnea was Holon's key player, as he battled Randy White and Buck Johnson under the boards admirably. Barnea's 14th point of the first half, from an offensive rebound, tied the game at 34. It was then that Brad Leaf came off the Maccabi bench and proceeded to score nine first-half points to extend the visitors' half-time lead to 50-45.

Holon refused to quit. They stormed out of the second-half gate, and baskets by Barnea, Yoav Sapar and Derrick Hamilton knotted the game at 52. The lead then switched hands six times over the next five minutes, and a Barnea bucket gave Holon a 61-58 lead with 12:15 to play.

"Over the next five minutes though, Maccabi played like the best team in Europe, as it teed off an incredible 20-0 run to put the game out of reach. Nadav Henefeld (20 points, four rebounds, three assists) was the key, scoring 10 of those points along with his stifling defense. Doron Sheffer (12 points, six assists), who was inserted into the game just before the run began, contributed two three-pointers during the breakaway spurt.

Derrick Hamilton (17 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists) and Milt Wagner (20 points) led the Holon offense.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - Last night's Premier League result: Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 2.

NHL - Sunday's results: NY Rangers 6, Montreal 2; Philadelphia 4, Vancouver 3; San Jose 4, St. Louis 3; Anaheim 4, Edmonton 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT.

Single Weekday - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 12.87

FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 198.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 19.89

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) - NIS 292.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 29.25

WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 408.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 40.85

FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 626.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 62.65

MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 994.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 99.45

New Rates are valid until February 26, 1997.

OEALINES offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315564.

DWELLINGS

General

WHERE TO STAY

JERUSALEM LODGES LTD.

Short and long term rentals. Bed and breakfast. P.O. Box 4233, Jerusalem 91044. Tel: 02-5511745, Fax: 02-551-9541.

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

HOLIDAY RENTALS

HOLIDAY FURNISHED APARTMENTS and rooms for short periods, throughout Jerusalem, low prices. Special information service for kids and rooms. 21 King George St., Jerusalem. Tel: 02-825-9919, Fax: 02-825-7205.

THE JERUSALEM INN at the City Center - Double or large family rooms, priv. bathroom, T.V./Tel, quality furnished. Tel: 02-252-757, Fax: 02-251-297.

RENTALS

OLD KATAMON, 3.5 rooms, long term floor, fully furnished, available long term. Tel: 02-563-5011, 02-563-4897.

SALES

FOR SALE, ARNONA, penthouse, 130, view, elevator, covered parking, no agents. \$550,000. Tel: 03-643884, 032-787168.

GERMAN COLONY, 2, quiet, central, 20 sq.m. basement, garden, underground parking. Immediate. ISRABUILD. Tel: 02-566571

GERMAN COLONY, 3, quiet, central, new building, parking, balconies. Immediate. ISRABUILD. Tel: 02-566-8571.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, WOLFSON, 5, 11th floor, view of Knesset, storage, parking, \$495,000. ISRABUILD. Tel: 02-566-8571.

HAR NOF (CHAL-TAIB), 5 rooms, completely renovated, terrace + garden + double conveniences + storage, very special, exclusive to T.K.M. Multi-line, Tel: 02-562-8041.

DWELLINGS

Tel Aviv

RENTALS

SAVION, TO RENT, large, very luxurious villa + pool, quit ambassador. Exclusive. DEBI BOLTON. Tel: 03-534-3355.

DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

RENTALS

HERZLIYA PITUAHI FOR rent, fully furnished, 4 bedroom cottage, long lease, immediate entry. MORAN REAL ESTATE. Tel: 09-857-2759.

SALES

REHANA ARTZIT LTD.

4 DAVID RAZIEL ST., RA'ANANA 09-771-4883

* Ra'anana: Unique cottage, beautifully decorated, prime location

* Ra'anana: Exceptional roof apartment, beautiful view, high standard.

CAESAREA 7, LUXURIOUS! Swimming pool, desirable neighborhood, great decision. Tel: 06-363-261, 050-231-725.

SITUATIONS VACANT

General

GENERAL

DANISH SPEAKERS WANTED

High salary! Cell Malene et Tel. 03-575-9255.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

IMMEDIATE! HIGH SALARY for au pair, live-in, for childcare and cleaning. Tel: 03-524-2085.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Jerusalem

HOUSEHOLD HELP

METAFLET FOR 5 - 8 years old and housekeeping 5 days 12:00 - 18:00. English preferred references. Tel: 03-547-2282.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Tel Aviv

HOUSEHOLD HELP

FORGET THE REST! We are the best! The biggest and oldest agency in Israel. For the highest quality live-in jobs phone Au Pair International. 03-8190423.

IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE, friendly families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hillel Tel: 03-9659937.

GOOD CONDITIONS, HIGH SALARY, for live-in/out, for 1 girl. Tel: 03-560-9531.

WARM FAMILY SEEKS South African au pair, live-in. Central Tel Aviv, \$750 + 200 NIS. Immediate bonus. Tel: 03-620-1185, 052-492-002.

PURCHASE/SALES

General

MISC.

BUY, SELL OR exchange antique furniture, apartment contents and liquidations. Tel: 03-683-1774.

PURCHASE/SALES

Jerusalem

FOR SALE

COLLECTION OF GOVERNMENT coins & medals. Tel: (02) 825-1070, (02) 8253040.

VEHICLES

Jerusalem

UNRESTRICTED

ARIE PALOGE - QUALITY CARS: buying, selling, leasing, trading. Tel: 02-6523755, 050-240977.

SELLING? BUYING? INSTANT CASH! Any car. Huge inventory. Bergans. Ben-net. Tel: 02-963-1493, 050-316715.

Hill leads Pistons past Kings 95-66

AUBURN HILLS (AP) - The Detroit Pistons held the Sacramento Kings to 16 points in each of the first three quarters and Grant Hill had 23 points and 14 rebounds in a 95-66 victory Sunday night.

Hill, who played only 31 minutes, had nine points in a 2 1/2 minute run that helped Detroit to a 31-16 lead after the first quarter.

The lead grew to 26 in the second quarter and 35 in the fourth quarter as the Pistons held the Kings to the second-lowest point total ever by a Detroit opponent.

Grant Long added 15 points for Detroit and Lindsey Hunter had 13. Corliss Williamson led the Kings with 15.

Warriors 98, Trail Blazers 70

Latrell Sprewell scored 28 points and Joe Smith had 10 points and 11 rebounds as Golden State won at home.

The Trail Blazers shot a season-low 30 percent after shooting 52 percent over their previous four games. Portland also tied its season-low for points scored.

The Warriors built a 34-point lead midway through the fourth quarter to hand Portland its worst loss of the season.

Jazz 96, SuperSonics 90

The best start in Jazz history got even better as Karl Malone had 30 points and 13 rebounds and visiting Utah beat Seattle for the second time this season.

The Jazz, who lost to the Sonics in the Western Conference finals last spring, won their 10th straight game.

Utah's bench outscored Seattle's 44-22 as Antoine Carr had 13 points, Chris Morris 12 and rookie Shandon Anderson 11.

Shawn Kemp had 29 points and 13 rebounds and Gary Payton had 18 points for the Sonics.

Lakers 104, Nuggets 96

Shaquille O'Neal scored 24 points, grabbed 16 rebounds and matched his career high with eight assists as Los Angeles took control early for a home win.

Nick Van Exel had 24 points, six rebounds and seven assists and Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell had 14 points each for the Lakers, who led all the way and held the Nuggets to nine points in the first 18 minutes of play.

National handball team finishes 3rd

THE LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

AFTER the bruises and limb breaks from the handball game between Israel and Egypt last week in the Netherlands, this week's games against a visiting Dutch team was relatively calm. Israel landed the third spot in the preliminary rounds of the World Cup Competition by beating the Netherlands twice, 23-21 on Friday and 25-19 on Sunday at Hadar Yosef. The Czech Republic won Israel's game, with Belarus second and the Netherlands fourth.

TRIATHLON: The international triathlon competition in Eilat, aka the Israeli Championships, was won by the Netherlands' Dennis Looze, Europe's No. 1 triathlete. His time was 1:54:54. Behind him were Britain's Richard Hobson and Thomas Waker from Sweden.

Ido Mouri was the first Israeli to finish the course, ending in eighth place overall and 2:03:52. Mirav Tarshish, Israel's champion, took the women's title in 2:18:40. Marring the sporting atmosphere was the fact that 17-year-old Oded Gross was selected to represent Israel at the Asian Championships ahead of Mouri, despite his fourth-place finish among the local athletes. The reason given was Gross' real chance of winning in his age group. Tarshish, 18, will be the other Israeli entry in the championships in India.

GOLF: The annual Uri Akavia Cup tournament was held at the Caesarea Golf Club with 100 players competing in three divisions. Nissim Zanati scored a five-under-par 41 points (eight pars and six birdies) to win the A Division Cup. Shlomo Avnaim won the B Division Cup with 38 points and 84-year-old Lov Zim took the C Division with 39 points.

After 18 rounds of the National Coca Cola Golf League, Kfar Shimryahu, seeking its fourth consecutive title, is leading with 46 points, followed by Jerusalem with 30 and Tel Aviv with 27.

TENNIS: Sun, sea and tennis attracted 230 players to the seniors tournament in Eilat last week. Besides the fun, there was serious action too with Ghanian immigrant Daniel Afim beating Raz Hochman 6-1, 6-2 in the 35-years class. Other winners were Meir Pokshivka and Shalom Giat (both 35), Roni Goldman (45), Joe Oren (50), Uzi Bonzak (55), Yitzhak Ben Shabar (60) and Mano Bardan (65). Winners among the women were Ilana Yovel (35), Carmela Friedman (45) and Noa Melovetz (55).

BOWLS: Snapping up a one-shot win was Ra'anana's bowls team in the midweek mixed fours competition at Ramat Gan with Sam Skudowitz skipping for Jeff Kruger, Molly Skudowitz and Natalie Goldsmith. Their victims, Dan van Creveld, Moshe Ayoun, Jessie Rosen and Shelley Haviv saw their 17-11 lead whittled away in the last three heads when the winners scored 3.3 and I. Ramat Gan's team took third spot, beating Haifa. Twenty-four teams played in the six-week round robin competition, sponsored by the Anglo Saxon Real Estate Agency.

ICE HOCKEY: The Jerusalem Lions have cemented their unbeaten lead on the local ice hockey league before the Hanukka break. The Lions beat Metulla 7-3 on Friday night with Oleg Agapov scoring three goals. Behind Jerusalem in the league are Metulla, Bat Yam and Rishon LeZion.

RUNNING: The Jerusalem Hasolelim long-distance running club returned from participating in the 21-km Aphrodite Half Marathon in Cyprus on Sunday. The best result for the Jerusalemites was Rabia Yusuf from East Jerusalem who finished 16th while 70-year-old Moshe Gur won his age group with a time of 1:49.

WINDSURFING: If you wondered if windsurfers really are tough, just watch Amit Inbar. Inbar, currently riding the waves in Hawaii where he is shooting a promotional film, will then head on to New Zealand. There, against four other windsurfers, Inbar will valiantly test his mettle in a series of dangerous sports, including bungee jumping, free parachuting, rappelling, rafting and surfing in towering waves.

